



CITY OF DETROIT
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
ADMINISTRATION DIVISION

COLEMAN A. YOUNG MUNICIPAL CENTER
2 WOODWARD AVENUE, SUITE 513
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48226
PHONE: 313-224-3901 TTY: 311
FAX: 313-224-1464
WWW.DETROITMI.GOV

December 12, 2012

Detroit City Council
1340 CAYMC
Detroit, Michigan 48226

Honorable City Council:

Re: Annual Recycling Report - 2012

Section 7-403 of the revised City Charter requires that the Department of Public Works implement a comprehensive city-wide Recycling plan and to annually provide a written update to City Council of activities, programs, accomplishments, and challenges to our ability to provide recycling opportunities to all of our citizens.

Enclosed herein is the DPW update for calendar year 2012.

Respectfully Submitted



Ron Brundidge, Director
Department of Public Works

Cc: Kirk Lewis, Deputy Mayor
Janice Winfrey, City Clerk
Adam Hollier, Mayor's Office
Jose Abraham, DPW
John Prymack, GDRRA
Charles Harmon, DPW – Solid Waste Division

Attachment: 2012 Recycling Report



DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS 2012 ANNUAL RECYCLING REPORT

In accordance with Section 7-403 of the revised City Charter, the Department of Public Works (DPW) provides an annual update of comprehensive recycling activities and initiatives throughout the City of Detroit.

In 2012, the City continued to provide recycling options to all of our residents. Four (4) geographically located city operated convenience centers remained open for citizens to drop off recyclables at no cost five days per week. In addition, Recycle Here, through its contract with the Greater Detroit Resource Recovery Authority (GDRRA) provided drop off options three days per week at their 1331 Holden facility, along with operating mobile sites at rotating locations every Saturday. Recyclable materials that are accepted at these locations include plastics, paper, cardboard, glass, and metals. Almost 2.5 million pounds of recyclables were processed at drop off facilities this year, as over 30,000 Detroit residents visited these sites in 2012.

While there are no immediate plans to provide citywide curbside recycling, DPW did expand this program in 2012, providing 64 or 95 gallon wheeled carts to 12,000 additional households in the Detroit Works Demonstration Area neighborhoods bounded by Woodward, Wyoming, McNichols, and 8 Mile, along with the South Rosedale & Grandmont neighborhoods. Feedback collected from meetings with community leaders in these areas strongly conveyed that they felt that being able to conveniently recycle is an important “quality of life” factor for stable neighborhoods. This has been supported by the fact that citizen participation rates in the new areas have routinely exceeded the State minimum goal of 40% by a substantial amount. The most recent expansions will result in approximately 38,000 households having the option to recycle at curbside by year’s end and over 2.3 million pounds of materials being collected at curbside. Future expansions will occur as funding for carts becomes available.

In 2012, all recyclable materials collected in the city were taken to the ReCommunity facility in Southfield for processing and end use.

While rates in the new areas have been very good, the overall citywide rate of participation in curbside recycling continues to be less than the stated goal of at least 40%. The comprehensive participation rate on the east side, which has 18 gallon bins that are serviced weekly, was 21%. The overall participation rate on the west side, which has 64-95 gallon wheeled carts that are serviced bi-weekly, was only 24%. Therefore, our biggest challenge remains how to get more of our citizens to participate in creating a sustainable and green friendly environment throughout the city.



The City also provides an avenue for Detroit residents to properly and safely dispose of household hazardous wastes, including flammable materials, batteries, pesticides, oven cleaner, oils, light bulbs, paints and thinners, herbicides, and expired prescription medications. GDRRA contracts with EQ, located at 2000 E. Ferry to provide these hazardous waste services at no cost to our residents.

DPW separately collects yard waste, to include grass clippings, brush, and shrubbery between the months of April and December. Christmas trees are collected the first two weeks of January. Yard waste is collected either at curbside or it can be taken to any of the four city operated convenience drop off sites. In 2012, over 30 million pounds of yard waste and brush was collected by the city. All collected yard waste is either composted for end use as fertilizer or shredded into wood chips for landscaping.

In 2012, DPW received a \$50,000 grant to be used for the removal and disposal of scrap tires throughout the city. 51,000 abandoned tires, the equivalent of one (1) million pounds, were removed from city streets and ultimately hauled to the Silver Lining Tire Recycling facility in Wyandotte to be used for the generation of electrical power.

Finally, 800,000 tons of refuse will be handled this year at the Waste to Energy facility on Russell. After processing, this refuse will generate 2 million pounds of steam, along with 271 million kilowatt-hours of electricity. In addition, 35,000 tons of metals are taken out of this waste stream and recycled for future use.

In summary, the City of Detroit continues to provide cost effective recycling opportunities for each of its residents through our convenience facilities and expanding curbside collection services. Furthermore, procedures are in place for separate collections of yard waste, brush, scrap tires, and hazardous materials to be processed for reuse or appropriate disposal. Our biggest non-financial challenge remains getting more residents to recycle, especially the citizens who currently reside in neighborhoods that have curbside collection. To assist with these challenges, our partnerships with Recycling advocates such as Zero Waste Detroit, Rosedale Recycles, and the Clean Energy Coalition (who obtained a \$50,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to assist with education and outreach), among many others continue to be extremely important in helping to get out this message of sustainability and reuse.



Attachment A

Number of Households with Curbside Recycling	38,000
Curbside Participation Rates	
East Side Manual Bin System	21%
West Side Automated Cart System	24%
Yard Waste Collected & Composted	8877 tons
Brush Collected	6321 tons
Scrap Tires Processed	50,866 tires; 1 million pounds
Number of Detroit Residents Recycling	30,000 annually
Amount of Recyclable Materials Collected	4,850,000 pounds
Amount of Refuse Processed in WTE Facility	800,000 tons
Amount of Metals Captured for Reuse	35,000 tons